

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

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Claim 1 (Currently amending): A forward amplifier signal equalization circuit for use with a forward amplifier for two-way coaxial cable systems, ~~of the type~~ having a distribution ~~centre~~ center distributing a plurality of forward signals, ~~and~~ a plurality of coaxial cable lines extending therefrom, ~~and~~ a plurality of tap ports connecting the plurality of forward signals from each the coaxial cable line of the plurality of coaxial cable lines to respective terminals, and ~~said~~ the two-way coaxial cable system ~~further~~ having reception facilities for receiving a plurality of return signals from ~~said~~ the two-way coaxial cable system, and wherein ~~said~~ the plurality of forward signals and the plurality of return signals passing along ~~said~~ the two-way coaxial cable system in opposite directions are progressively attenuated in signal strength, ~~said~~ the two-way coaxial cable system having a plurality of forward amplifiers at spaced intervals therealong, for receiving the plurality of forward signals passing along ~~said~~ the plurality of coaxial cables cable lines, and amplifying the same, the equalization circuit comprising:

a signal equalization circuit connectable in each ~~said~~ forward amplifier of the plurality of forward amplifiers, said signal equalization circuit for equalizing the signal strengths of signals across ~~the~~ a wave band of ~~said~~ the

plurality of forward signals and having a plurality of receptacles for receiving a plurality of plug in circuit components for varying the characteristics of ~~said the~~ equalization circuit<sub>7</sub>; and,

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a plurality of plug in attenuator components for said signal equalization circuit, ~~each of said attenuator components being of identical design and said plurality of said attenuator components~~ said plurality of plug in attenuator components being adapted to interfit with said signal equalization circuit interchangeably, ~~and~~ said plurality of plug in attenuator components having a range of varying performance characteristics, wherein ~~whereby~~ a ~~respective said plug in attenuator component~~ each of said plurality of plug in attenuator components can be selected and plugged into said signal equalization circuit to produce the performance specifications desired for ~~the~~ each forward amplifier of the plurality of forward amplifiers at a predetermined location along ~~said the~~ two-way coaxial cable system.

Claim 2 (Currently amending): A forward amplifier signal equalization circuit for use with a the forward amplifier for two-way coaxial cable systems as claimed in claim 1, ~~wherein~~ further comprising a return amplifier, said return amplifier ~~is~~ adapted to be connected to ~~said the two-way coaxial~~ cable system around ~~a respective said the forward amplifier, whereby said~~ wherein the plurality of forward signals can pass through ~~said the~~ forward amplifier in a forward direction, and ~~said the plurality of~~ return signals ~~can~~ pass through said return amplifier around ~~said the~~ forward amplifier in a return direction.

Claim 3 (Currently amending): A forward amplifier signal equalization circuit for use with a the forward amplifier for two-way coaxial cable systems as claimed in claim 2, ~~in which the~~ wherein said return amplifier ~~incorporates~~ has a return signal equalizer circuit, said return signal equalizer circuit being adapted to receive one of a said plurality of plug in attenuator components having predetermined characteristics ~~which are predetermined, whereby and wherein the~~ said characteristics of said return amplifier can be adjusted, by interchanging said plurality of plug in attenuator component components in said return signal equalizer circuit.

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Claim 4 (Currently amending): A forward amplifier signal equalization circuit for use with a the forward amplifier for two-way coaxial cable systems as claimed in claim 3, wherein said ~~signal equalizer~~ return signal equalizer circuit incorporates a plurality of PAD circuit receptacles, each of said plurality of PAD circuit receptacles being adapted to receive one of a said plurality of ~~plug in~~ plug in attenuator components, wherein ~~the~~ each of said plurality of plug in attenuator components for ~~the~~ said forward signal ~~equaliser~~ equalizer circuit, and for ~~the~~ a return amplifier circuit, are all of identical design, and are interchangeable between ~~the~~ said forward signal ~~equaliser~~ equalizer circuit and ~~the~~ said return amplifier circuit.

Claim 5 (Currently amending): A forward amplifier signal equalization circuit for use with a the forward amplifier for two-way coaxial cable systems as claimed in

claim 4, wherein said forward signal ~~equalizer~~ equalization circuit ~~comprises~~ has a one PAD circuit receptacle from said plurality of PAD circuit receptacles, said one PAD circuit receptacle having a first connection, a second connection, and a third ~~connections~~ connection, said first connection being connected to receive the plurality of forward signals, ~~and to~~ a capacitor and an inductance, said second connection being connected to ~~said~~ a transformer resistor, ~~and~~ said third connection being connected to ground through a capacitor and an inductance, and ~~to~~ substantially a midpoint of ~~said~~ a transformer.

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Claim 6 (Currently amending): A method of setting the characteristics of a signal equalizer for a coaxial cable system, of the type having a distribution ~~centre~~ center distributing forward signals, ~~and~~ a plurality of coaxial cable lines extending therefrom, and a plurality of tap ports connecting signals from the coaxial cable line to respective terminals, ~~and~~ wherein forward signals passing along said coaxial cable system are progressively attenuated in signal strength, said coaxial cable system having signal amplifiers at spaced intervals there along, for receiving said forward signals passing along said coaxial cables, and for amplifying the same, ~~and~~ said coaxial cable system having equalizers at respective amplifiers for equalizing the strengths of said signals across their signal wave band width, said equalizers having receptacles for receiving ~~plug-in~~ plug in circuit components having varying characteristics, for producing varying levels of signal strength equalization ~~and~~, the method comprising the steps of:

measuring the strength of said forward signals passing through a said ~~forward~~ signal amplifier and said equalizer;

selecting a plug in attenuator component having the characteristics desired for the signal strength measured at that location;

plugging said selected attenuator components into ~~in~~ to the respective equalizer ~~whereby~~ to produce the performance specifications specific for said forward signals desired at a predetermined location along said a coaxial cable system.

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Claim 7 (Currently amending): A method as claimed in claim 6, and further including comprising the steps of measuring said signal strength across a band width of said forward signals ~~signal band width~~ to determine the attenuation of said forward signals at various frequencies in said band width.

Claim 8 (Currently amending): A method as claimed in claim 7, and including further comprising the ~~steps~~ step of passing said forward signals through a PAD circuit adapted to receive one of a plurality of plug in attenuator components, wherein the plug in attenuator components for the equalizer circuit, and for the PAD circuit, are all of identical design, and are interchangeable between the equalizer circuit and the PAD circuit.

Claim 9 (Currently amending): A method as claimed in claim 8, and including further comprising the ~~steps~~ step of

passing return signals through a return amplifier around said forward amplifier in a return direction.

Claim 10 (New): A signal equalization circuit comprising:

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a receptacle for receiving one of a plurality of attenuator PADS, each of said plurality of attenuator PADS having a plurality of attenuator PAD components of identical physical design, said plurality of attenuator PAD components being adapted to interfit interchangeably with the receptacle of the signal equalization circuit, wherein said plurality of attenuator PAD components have a range of varying attenuation characteristics, and wherein each attenuator PAD component of said plurality of attenuator PAD components can be selected and plugged into the signal equalization circuit to produce desired equalization specifications.

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